Vision and Value Statement

"The future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow man alike, timid and fearful in the face of bold projects and new ideas. Rather, it will belong to those who can blend passion, reason and courage in a personal commitment to the great enterprise and ideals of the American Society."

Robert F. Kennedy

Introduction and Purpose

Michigan's long term care policies and resulting operating principles should support citizens to maintain their ability to exert control over their lives, including supporting citizen preferences to remain in their home, neighborhood and community. There is little doubt that the full achievements of an optimal long term care service system for Michigan elderly and disabled citizens will require a consistent and sustained effort over the next decade. Clearly, progress is being made.

Each year hundreds, if not thousands, of important policy decisions, administrative, regulatory, and quality improvement actions, funding changes and executive and legislative proposals are made by a myriad of federal, state, and local agencies in both the public and private sectors that directly affect Michigan's long term care efforts. Nonetheless, without a widely-accepted common vision and a supported set of underlying principles and values, Michigan's progress toward an optimal long term care service system is likely to remain a fragmented, meandering, inefficient and unnecessarily expensive. This circumstance is aggravated by term-limits, annual budget and resource planning cycles, and the unavoidable reality of needing to solve today's crises. These factors too often focus attention on isolated and immediate decisions and actions that can become barriers to longer-term, truly effective solutions.

This Long Term Care Vision and Values Statement is intended to present a science-based, consensus vision of what can and should be achieved for Michigan's citizens in need of services. The Statement's fundamental purpose is to help guide the day-to-day and year-to-year decisions and actions of Michigan public and private organizations concerned about long term care. This will help to ensure that current actions and solutions effectively contribute to Michigan's progress toward an optimal long term care system.

Michigan's Vision for the Optimal Long Term Care Service System

Over the next decade, Michigan agencies and organizations concerned about long term care will support the development and implementation of an optimal long term care services system that:

1. Respects, supports, encourages, and promotes individual self-determination and family / community empowerment and involvement. This is demonstrated through culturally competent services, person

centered planning, individual choice of care settings, and through maximizing individual control over service provision and resource utilization.

2. Creates an efficient and dynamic continuum of long term care including in-home services, assisted living of various kinds, care management services, respite care services, nursing home care, hospice care, primary care, chronic care management, and acute hospital care services.

3. Provides accessible, regionally and locally decided single points of information, assessment, care planning and entry into the system for those seeking long term care services ensuring that each individual is supported to make full informed decisions about his/her services with the participation of chosen family and friends.

4. Uses consumer-centered processes and tools to assess and match the individual's needs and desires across a continuum of LTC services based on demonstrated need, effective individualized management and care planning.

5. Promotes efficient and appropriate movement across the continuum of LTC services by developing innovative financial policies that allow resources to follow the individual.

6. Assures the quality and cost effectiveness of Michigan's nursing facility care system by allowing greater innovation in the delivery and design of quality nursing home services, and by providing incentives for nursing homes to fully participate in an effective continuum of care for their community.

7. Supports Michigan's home and community based service system by assuring that all those who need high levels of care have a range of options that allow them to live in the community, if that is their choice, and sufficient support and services can be applied in cost-efficacious ways through an accessible home and community-based service system.

8. Builds and sustains an adequate, well-trained, highly motivated, and appropriately compensated workforce across the long term care continuum.

9. Promotes legislative and regulatory reform that assures safety and quality while removing unnecessary barriers that prevent Michigan from moving toward an efficient and dynamic continuum of care.

10. Dramatically increases the number of Michigan citizens who purchase long term care insurance or who develop other financial plans to support

individual needs and desires across a continuum of long term care services.

11. Actively supports and promotes community health, caregiver support, injury control and chronic disease prevention and management programs that reduce the need for long term services.

12. Includes the planning and oversight of efforts to realize this vision and shall include a central, meaningful role for participants and families, as well as other stakeholders.

13. Builds the capacity to educate the general population by increasing awareness about the continuum of long term care, insurance options, and making informed choices.